

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING

Cable-laying Steamer Joseph Henry
Put Overboard.

CHRISTENED BY MISS MAY BOAG

Only Yard Officials and Small Party
of Guests Witnessed the Event—
Vessel is Nearer Completion Than
Any Ship Ever Launched Here.

Another successful launching took place at the plant of the Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon when the small steel cable-laying steamer Joseph Henry was put overboard from the ways on the south side of ship trestle No. 2. The launching was a very quiet affair, being witnessed by only a few of the shipyard officials, one or two government inspectors and a small party of invited guests.

The new craft was christened by Miss Lillian May Boag, daughter of United States Inspector Boag, who is superintending the construction of the Henry.

The Joseph Henry is nearer completion than any steamer ever launched at this yard. Her boilers, smokestack and masts are in place and part of the machinery is on board. The main engines have yet to be installed on the ship, and it is estimated that it will require about six weeks, or two months, to complete the ship.

The new vessel is 160 feet long on deck, 32 feet broad and 17 feet deep amid ships. She will be propelled by two twin-screw, triple-expansion engines and there will be two rudders. The designed sea speed of 13 statute miles an hour.

This craft is building for the war department and will be used in cable and mine laying along the Atlantic coast ports.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE RAILWAY CHANGES

Mr. Ford is Superintendent of Terminals, and Mr. Parker is General Agent, Effective Tomorrow.

Official notice of railway changes announced in this paper yesterday morning were received yesterday. The circulars were as follows:

CIRCULAR.
Richmond, Dec. 28.
Mr. E. I. Ford is hereby appointed superintendent of terminals at Newport News, Va., in charge of all operations except those that are assigned to the general agent. The office of superintendent of terminals is established. Effective January 1, 1909.

J. W. KNAPP,
General Superintendent.

C. E. DOYLE,
General Manager.

CIRCULAR.
Richmond, Dec. 28.
Mr. H. E. Parker is hereby appointed general agent at Newport News, Va., and will have supervision of exports, imports, coastwise merchandise business, and will perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the general manager.

C. E. DOYLE,
General Manager.

EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION.

Negroes of the City Have Arranged for Parades and Exercises.

Elaborate arrangements have been made by the Emancipation Association, composed of leading negroes of the city for celebrating emancipation tomorrow according to custom. The parade will form on Jefferson street at 12:30 p. m., and the line of march will include all of the principal streets.

In the evening, a musical and literary program will be rendered at the Paul A. M. E. church on Twenty-third street, of which Rev. W. P. Byrd is pastor. Special music will be furnished by the church choir, and there will be selections by the Liberty Bell and Golden Gate quartet. J. S. Lee, of colored public school No. 1, will be the orator of the occasion.

Companies from Portsmouth, Norfolk and Suffolk will come over to participate in the parade.

WASHINGTON RIFLES SCHOOL.

Applicants for Promotion to be Instructed Regularly.

After January 11, the non-commissioned officers' school of the Washington Rifles will be held every evening at the company armory, in the Darling building. The school will be instructed by Col. S. H. Lee, of the Wyoming National Guard, and First Lieutenant Huppert, of the same regiment.

There are five vacancies to be filled among the non-commissioned officers of the company, and all of the men in the company are eligible for promotion.

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Social-Personal

Mr. and Mrs. James Long Street have announced the engagement of their sister, Miss Nancy Wakefield Parker, to Mr. Joseph Herbert Cook, the wedding to take place at St. Paul's Episcopal church on the evening of January 20. The announcement will be of especial interest in this city and throughout this section of the State.

Miss Parker is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Parker, of Smithfield, and since the death of her parents has spent a great deal of time in this city with her sister, Mrs. Street. She is a favorite in social circles and has many friends. Mr. Cook is tetter of Schmelz Bros., bank and has made his home here for several years. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John N. Cooke, of City Point.

Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Jones and Miss Addie New will entertain at bridge whist this evening, the guests being invited to watch the old year out.

Miss Phyllis Edwards is visiting friends in New York city.

Miss Stone, of Lynchburg, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. R. D. Velhines, 109 Twenty-sixth street.

Miss Marie Turner is visiting friends in Richmond.

Dr. William Hoskins is confined to his home by sickness.

Mr. R. W. Proffitt, who fell through the elevator shaft at Swift's packing house a few weeks ago, and sustained severe injuries, is improving.

Misses Rountree and Lucy Anderson, of Richmond, are the guests of Miss Isabella Richardson, on Chestnut avenue.

Mrs. M. E. Ferguson and daughter Lillian, have returned from a visit to Wilmington, Del.

Mrs. D. R. McNeill and daughter Virginia, of Baltimore, are visiting relatives in the city.

Misses Elta Sinclair and Fannie Collier of Hampton, left yesterday for Baltimore, where they will visit friends.

Miss Mary Alister of Richmond, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. I. Lipman of this city.

Mrs. John N. Martin returned yesterday afternoon from Richmond, where she has been visiting relatives. She was accompanied home by her sister, Miss Margaret A. Neal, who will be her guest here.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Fraley have gone to Philadelphia to visit relatives.

Miss Gertrude Shepperd, of Lee Hall, is visiting friends in this city.

Mr. Rex R. Fleury returned yesterday to Trenton, N. J., after visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Fleury.

QUIET HOME WEDDING.

Miss Maude Pugh and Mr. W. P. Wash are Bride and Groom.

Miss Maude Clayton Pugh and Mr. W. P. Wash were married last night at 7:30 o'clock at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Gayle, 124 Thirty-second street. The ceremony was performed by Rev. E. T. Wellford in the presence of a small party of relatives and intimate friends.

After the ceremony the bride and groom boarded the Old Dominion steamer for Richmond on their honeymoon. They will make a tour of Northern cities before returning to this city to make their home.

Miss Pugh, who has made her home here since girlhood, is a sister of Messrs. L. E. Pugh and C. O. Pugh. Mr. Wash has lived in the city for a number of years, and is local representative of a heating system company.

Watch Night Service.
A "Watch Night" service will be held at Trinity Methodist church this evening beginning at 10 o'clock. The public is invited to attend.

Habitual Constipation

May be permanently overcome by proper personal efforts with the assistance of the one truly beneficial, laxative, cathartic, Syrup of Figs and Senna, which enables one to form regular habits, easily so that constipation never returns, and the system is kept in perfect health.

For a full and complete description of this medicine, and how to use it, see the booklet, "How to Cure Constipation," which will be sent free of charge to anyone who writes for it.

Write for it today. It will be sent to you at once.

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MESSINA IS A MASS OF FIRE-SWEPT RUINS

(Continued from First Page).

which is hailed as a token of love from a sister state.

The minister of marine tonight received word that the steamships Tacoma and Campania laden with 45,000 beds and a large supply of provisions had left Genoa bound for Messina. Other steamers, also bountifully stocked are on their way to the stricken cities from various ports.

The despatching from the stricken zone say that a large army would be required to cope with even the people who are roaming about half clad and starving, some of them dragging articles of clothing from the smoldering ruins to protect themselves from the piercing winds.

Terrible suffering is inevitable before the much needed relief stores can arrive.

Late despatches state that the city of Palmi contains 1,500 dead and twice as many injured. Two thirds of the town was laid to waste.

Horror Unspeakable.

NAPLES, Dec. 30.—Time only confirms the unspeakable horrors of the earthquake. History will perhaps not divulge its supremest individual tragedies, for earth and sea ruthlessly claimed thousands of human beings, and the flames mercilessly completed the unfinished devastation.

Naples, vibrant with the memory of Vesuvius, is prostrated anew at the misery and woe from Messina confided to her care.

The hospitals, hotels and homes are crowded with refugees, and the people are vying with one another in adding the stricken.

Those who have expert knowledge on the subject agree that the center of the cataclysm was the strait of Messina, which also is the center of the volcanic zone, whose highest peak, Etna, is now silent.

From this base, the terrific disturbance extended, abating by little, northerly, as far as Cape Vaticano and southerly as far as the Bay of Catania, ravaging the western region of Calabria and the eastern coast of Sicily for a distance of nearly 100 miles.

Fair Region Destroyed.

It is impossible accurately to ascertain the exact extent of the movement east and west in the inland regions, but it is certain that the beauty of one of the most charming sections of Southern Italy has been irrevocably destroyed.

Vineyards are no more; waving rows of lemon, orange and olive trees have been torn up, and the enchanting coast line with its soft and fragrant foliage has been converted into a hideous desert.

Reggio, whose gay "spect set off the severity of the mountains and Palmi, perched jauntily amid orange and olive trees, have become mere blots on the horizon.

Treasure Aboard Warship.

CATANIA, Dec. 30.—The latest news from Messina sets forth that some progress is being made in the work of succoring the wounded survivors, but no attempt is being made to remove the wreckage.

The troops and sailors have been obliged to shoot down robbers who persisted in looting.

The entire local treasury of the Messina branch of the bank of Italy, some \$2,000,000 has been saved, and is on board an Italian warship.

Rescuers Becoming Exhausted.

The rescuers at Messina, are rapidly becoming exhausted.

The fires have not yet been put out, and there is no water with which to combat the flames.

Many of the people still refuse to leave the ruins of their homes.

They cling to the sites of their homes, crying out that their only safety is in fidelity to the wrecks of their houses.

Force often is necessary to get them to ships in the harbor. There are large numbers in the suburbs of Messina who will not come back into the city for fear of a recurrence of the shocks.

A despatch received here from Deputy Felix at Messina, says:

Hunger in Messina.

"Organize a squadron of volunteers for rescue work. Send us food for the survivors are leaving today for Catania. Receive them with love and fraternity. It is the duty of every family in Catania to shelter a family from Messina."

Only two members of the municipal council of Messina survived the disaster.

The bluejackets from the Russian warships at Messina have performed valorous service.

They risked their lives recklessly in the work of extricating the wounded.

Hospitals have been improvised in the railroad station which is partially standing, in another building on First of September street, and on board the steamer Margherita, but they already are full.

A roll call of the 89th regiment of Infantry reveals the fact that the organization has only ten survivors.

A man named Roberto, the sole survivor of his family, became mad from grief in Catania today, and committed suicide.

King and Queen Arrive.

CATANIA, Dec. 30.—King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena arrived at Messina today on board the battleship Vittorio Emanuele.

The king and queen were met by the Italian government officials at the ruined city.

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the king in connection with the work of rescue. His majesty, however, lost little time in listening to a recital of distress.

He joined a rescue party and labored as unremittingly as the others. He practically extricated several injured persons pinned under the ruins.

Queen Succors Little Children.

The queen quickly recovered her courage and followed the example of her husband. She devoted her attention principally to the little children.

She rescued with her own hands a little boy 3 years old bleeding from many cuts and wounds and herself carried him to the dock, where she handed him over to members of the hospital corps.

At the dock were many small boats sent in to take the wounded out to the ships in the harbor. Every available steamer in the port has been fitted up as a temporary hospital.

People wept from emotion when they saw the king and queen of Italy come ashore.

Royal Presences Inspiring.

The women threw kisses to her majesty.

Both were practically carried up the pier in the arms of their subjects.

The presence of the king has acted as a general inspiration.

Even the wounded found fresh strength when they learned his majesty had come among them.

An aged man, who had been abandoned and under a beam that apparently had crushed out his life, revived for a moment at the shouts of greeting to the royal pair. He stretched out his hand and raised his head long enough to call out: "Now I can die happy. Long life to the king." He then fell back and expired.

Senator Orlando, the minister of justice, who is with the royal party, has described the catastrophe in a telegram to a friend as the greatest disaster in the memory of man.

An overpowering stench is beginning to arise from the ruins of Messina.

Ten thousand soldiers will be required to bury the dead there. It was learned today that General Colli lost his life at Messina.

Craft Reports Observations.

MARSEILLES, Dec. 30.—The Messageries Maritimes Picket Oreque, which arrived here from Alexandria, today reports that at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning while steaming thirty miles outside of Messina she experienced several formidable shocks, the passengers being greatly alarmed.

The steamer passed within 600 feet of Messina and saw the city aflame between drifting columns of smoke.

The city at that time was a vast heap of ruins and there were no signs of life.

More than 300 vessels were adrift and the sea was filled with wreckage.

Consul's Family Near Messina.

NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 30.—Vincenzo Cabez, secretary of the Italian consulate here, and Joe Milano of Portsmouth, are both from Messina. Sicily, one of the Italian cities that suffered so disastrously in the recent earthquake in Southern Italy.

Mr. Cabez's wife and family were there and he has as yet been unable to learn anything of their safety. His home was not directly in the city of Messina, and he is hopeful that his wife and children escaped.

He also has many other relatives in Messina and feels that some must have lost their lives.

Americans' Fortunate Escape.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Had the disaster in Southern Italy occurred a month later, according to local managers of European tourist agencies, a much greater number of Americans and other foreigners must have perished than doubtless has been the case.

This would have been so, they point out, because the season for tourists in Sicily and Calabria is at its height in the latter part of January and really does not begin until after New Year's, either for Americans or Europeans.

One of the few direct cable messages reaching this city from Messina since the earthquake was received today by Giorgio W. Peirce, of the New York office of the Sicilian-American Steamship Company, of which his father is the president and his uncle is the vice-president in Messina.

The message, which had been sent from Naples, read:

"Messina entirely destroyed by earthquake. I and family safe."

Mr. Peirce said that the family home is not in Messina proper but one mile away. However, it is situated on the shore, wherefore he presumed that the tidal wave that swept the city did not extend to that point but was confined to the harbor.

Mr. Peirce was of the opinion that the loss of life in the shipping in the port must very greatly have added to the casualties.

Americans in Stricken City.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 30.—Ninety Americans in a Messina hotel that was destroyed and Italians and Americans cooperating in the quest for information regarding the missing, are reported in a cable to the state department today from Ambassador Griscom at Rome.

The Ambassador called that he has received word from the American consuls at Messina and Palermo.

He has asked the foreign office for information and that office, he advises, will use every effort through the state department to obtain information.

that 30 Americans were in the Trinacra hotel at Messina, which is said to be totally destroyed.

It is known, however, that some of the guests escaped.

The foreign office reported that several foreign nations are hurrying warships to the scene to offer assistance.

The ambassador has despatched consular officers in the quest for information.

Government is Active.

Every effort is being made by the state department to obtain news of American citizens who were in the earthquake zone in Italy, and whose fate has caused their friends much uneasiness and an appeal to the department to help locate them.

Ambassador Griscom was directed to cable promptly any information obtainable regarding the missing people, and to send some of the American vice consuls in Italy to the scene of distress to render whatever aid possible.

Efforts also are being made to keep in communication with Deputy Consul Lupton at Messina, to the end that prompt advice may reach here regarding any Americans in trouble there.

Will Make News Public.

The state department announced that it will make public promptly to the press any information received from its officials in Italy, so that news from there will reach those immediately interested at the first possible moment.

The department's information is that the winter tourist season has not yet begun in Sicily.

The impression among officials is that those Americans who were in the earthquake zone in that island were mainly at Taormina.

Many inquiries came to the department regarding friends believed to be in the earthquake region.

Those inquired about included the following: Mrs. Martha C. Kittredge, her two daughters Ethel and Clarice, and Miss Margaret Mendell all of Brookline, Mass., and all of whom are believed to have been at Taormina, Miss Blanche Kain, of Philadelphia, whose probable whereabouts in the disturbed district are not stated, and David Sessums, bishop of Louisiana who, it is said, at the department, is believed to be at Messina.

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Soda Crackers that crackle as good Soda Crackers should

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With meals—for meals—between meals

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